



CONTACT: Patricia Sullivan

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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TEL: 843.339.0819

FAX: 843.339.5928

EMAIL: psullivan@scfirststeps.org

PINWHEEL GARDEN PLANTED IN LAMAR

April 28, 2015, LAMAR, S.C.—Darlington County First Steps' (DCFS) Executive Director, Darnell McPherson and Lamar City Council Member, Willie Howell, worked together to plant a pinwheel garden on Lamar's City Hall lawn.

April is Child Abuse Prevention Month and First Steps decided to close out the month of April with the planting of a pinwheel garden, to remind others to keep the conversation going for the months to come. According to the Children's Trust, the blue pinwheels represent the happy, healthy carefree childhood every child deserves and the commitment to giving them the opportunity to excel and thrive in a safe and loving environment.

"Children are our most precious resources. They are born to be loved, valued, educated, and inspired to achieve their goals. The Lamar community continues to embrace its children through the many highly rated child care centers, the various church related programs, the sports and recreational activities, excellent public schools and a state-of-the art local library! These are all indicators of a caring community" said McPherson.

Randy Reynolds, Mayor of the City of Lamar, signed the proclamation declaring Lamar, SC as a pinwheel city. "We are happy to have Lamar participate in Child Abuse Prevention Month and to have this opportunity," said Mayor Reynolds.

The Children's Trust of South Carolina had a great hand in spreading awareness of Child Abuse Prevention Month this year as they are the state chapter of Prevent Child Abuse America and leaders of the Pinwheels for Prevention campaign. The Children's Trust heavily focuses on early intervention and prevention with special attention on child safety and maltreatment.

McPherson stated, "The Pinwheel Garden is an outward sign which lets others know, Lamar supports healthy and happy lifestyles for all children."

Parents as Teachers (PAT) and Parents Are First (PAF) are programs DCFS offers to male and female parenting and expecting parents in Darlington County. These evidence-based programs, support parents having a healthy, growing relationship with their children and ensuring they have a safe, thriving living environment.



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For more information on services DCFS offer to families and children in Darlington County, visit www.darlingtoncountyfirststeps.org.